

South Ellerbe Stormwater Project

INTRODUCTION

A natural stormwater restoration is being planned at 808 West Trinity Avenue, the site of the former Duke Diet and Fitness Center. This site will be transformed into a space that will be an asset to both the community and the environment. The property is located along a South Ellerbe Creek tributary that flows into Falls Lake.

Project Site

This nine-acre site is unique within Durham due to its size and location in the watershed. The site is a natural low point in the watershed that receives stormwater runoff from two densely developed drainage basins, the Trinity Basin and the Downtown Basin (see *Drainage map on page 2*). As rainwater runoff from these 485 urban acres makes its way to South Ellerbe Creek, it picks up pollutants such as nutrients, sediment, and litter. The stormwater restoration will filter the polluted runoff before it enters the creek.

Why do this project?

This project will help the City meet the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Rules. These rules require nutrient reductions from sources that flow into the lake such as stormwater runoff, wastewater treatment plant discharges, and agricultural runoff. The stormwater rules address both new construction and parts of the city with older buildings and neighborhoods. Although polluted runoff from older parts of the city is harder to control, this stormwater restoration offers that chance. The project is a part of a comprehensive watershed strategy to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous to help to improve water quality. A cleaner Falls Lake will support its uses for drinking water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

In addition to improving the environment, the stormwater restoration will add value to the community. **The site will provide opportunities for viewing areas, outdoor seating, interpretive signs, and access to walking trails.** The area could also be used by nearby schools and universities to study nature and aquatic ecology. Community input is requested for additional ways that the project can provide amenities in the space.

2017 —————> Public Outreach and Involvement —————> 2020



Snapshot of the project timeline



HEALTHIER ECOSYSTEM

The project will reduce pollution, increase biodiversity, sequester carbon, increase green space, and improve aquatic life for South Ellerbe Creek and Falls Lake.



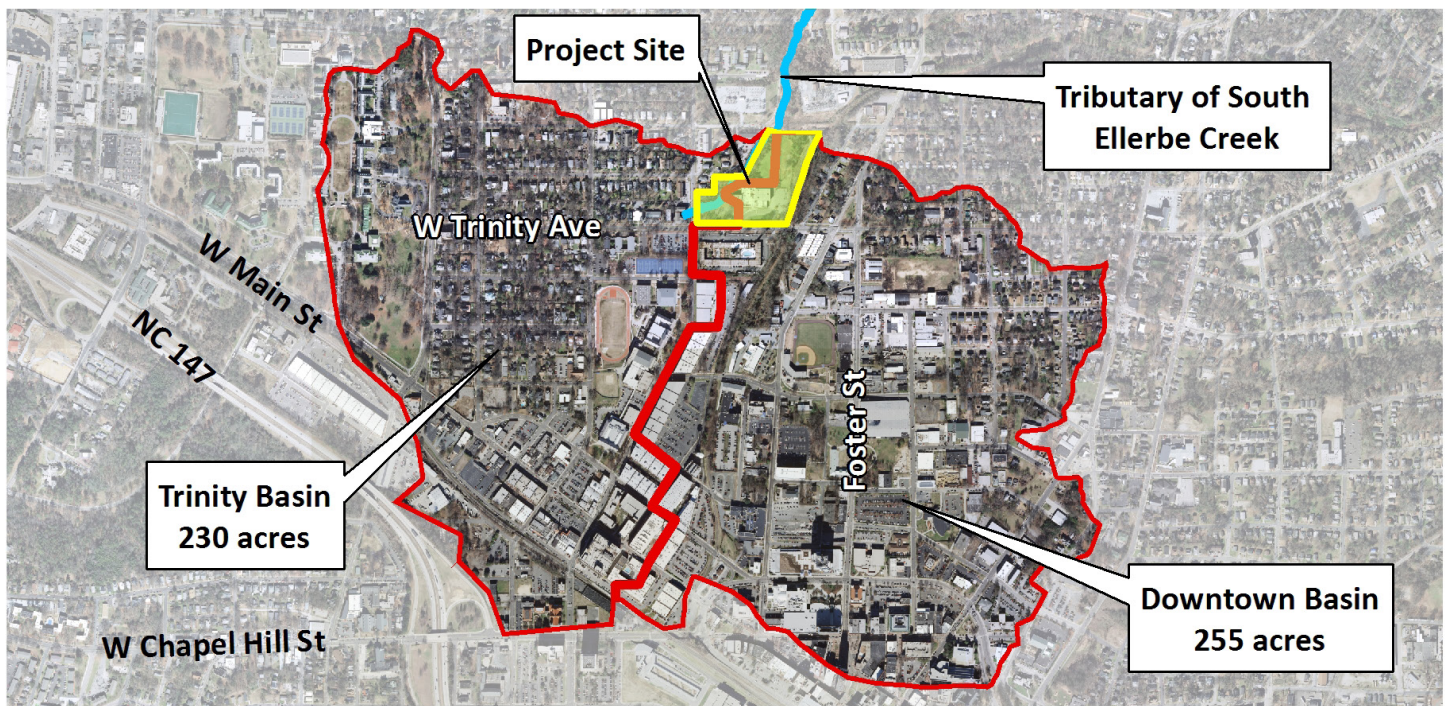
BUILDING REMOVAL

The building will be demolished this winter. Removing the building will help the site soak in more rain runoff, getting back to the natural water cycle.



COMMUNITY INPUT

The City welcomes input on design, amenities, and naming the project.



Drainage map: Two drainage areas flow to the location of the future restoration. Rain runoff collects from neighborhoods and downtown areas and flows mostly through pipes until it discharges at the site.

PROJECT UPDATES

The City and its consultant, Wildlands Engineering, will design and build the stormwater feature in several phases. Field teams are working now to identify materials that may be recycled or reused and to complete field assessments that will inform the design process. **By the end of 2017, crews will start to remove the former Duke Diet and Fitness Center building and stabilize the site.** During the next two years, the project team will complete the design and prepare construction bid documents. **Construction of the stormwater feature will continue through 2020.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Engaging the public during this project is a priority for the City. The City will conduct numerous outreach activities to inform and solicit input from residents and other interested groups throughout the life of the project. These activities will include several public meetings, a design workshop, a naming contest for the project, social media updates, short videos, press releases, and other announcements.



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[DurhamNCStormwater](https://www.facebook.com/DurhamNCStormwater)



Get updates on Twitter!
[#DurhamStormH2O](https://twitter.com/DurhamStormH2O)

Important upcoming events:

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

July 27th, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Committee Room
2nd floor City Hall
101 City Hall Plaza,
Durham, NC 27701

DESIGN WORKSHOP: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

September 27th, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Adaron Hall at the
Durham Arts Council
120 Morris Street,
Durham, NC 27701



Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act: Persons who require assistance should call (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254, TTY (919) 560-1200 or email ADA@durhamnc.gov no later than 48 hours before the event.

For more information, visit the project web page: <http://durhamnc.gov/1616>. You may also contact the City's Project Manager, **Sandi Wilbur**, at Sandra.Wilbur@DurhamNC.gov or (919) 560-4326, ext. 30286 or **Megan Walsh** at Megan.Walsh@DurhamNC.gov or (919) 560-4326 ext. 30220.